

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, for the information of Members, in light of this agreement, the next two votes will occur at approximately 4:30 p.m. with the Thompson appeal vote occurring at 4:30 and the conference report vote occurring immediately thereafter.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:49 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. COLLINS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HATCH. Without losing my own time, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Vermont off the leader's time, 2 minutes from the distinguished Senator from Minnesota off the leader's time, and I understand the distinguished Senator from New York desires 5 minutes off the minority leader's time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. JEFFORDS are located in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New York is now recognized.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank you as well as the chairman of our committee, Mr. HATCH, and the ranking member, Mr. LEAHY, for yielding me a brief amount of time to talk on the Violence Against Women Act.

I commend our leader on Judiciary, Senator LEAHY, for his diligent work on so many of the issues contained here. I know there are some differences on a few. I commend Senator BIDEN, who has worked long and hard on this issue for many years. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his strenuous efforts. I also thank the Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER. When Senator BIDEN first introduced the bill in the Senate, Senator BOXER, then Congress Member BOXER, was the House sponsor; I was the cosponsor. When she moved on to the Senate, I became the lead House sponsor and managed the bill as it was signed into law.

When it was first enacted in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act signaled a sea change in our approach to the epidemic of violence directed at women. Until the law, by and large it had been a dirty little secret that every night hundreds of women showed up at police precincts, battered and

bruised, because they were beaten by their spouse or their boyfriend or whatever. All too often they were told by that law enforcement officer, who really had no education, no training, or no place to send the battered woman: Well, this is a domestic matter. Go home and straighten it out with your husband.

So deep were the traditions ingrained that it was very hard to remove them. In fact, the expression "rule of thumb" comes from the medieval law that said a husband could beat his wife with a stick provided that stick was no wider than his thumb.

The Violence Against Women Act took giant strides to take this terrible, dirty secret, bring it above ground, and begin really to cleanse it. The new law acknowledged that the ancient bias showed itself not just in the virulence of the perpetrators of violence but in the failure of the system and the community to respond with sufficient care and understanding. Shelters grew, police departments were educated, the VAWA hotline—which we added to the law as an afterthought, I remember, in the conference—got huge numbers of calls every week, far more than anybody ever expected. The increased penalties for repeat sex offenders did a great deal of good.

In my State alone, for instance, the act provided \$92 million for purposes such as shelter, such as education, such as rape crisis centers, and such as prevention education for high school and college students, and victims' services. But, as impressive as the advances were under the original VAWA, we still have a long way to go; this horrible activity is ingrained deeply in our society. Building on the success of VAWA I, VAWA II—the Violence Against Women Act II—is now before us. It is still the case that a third of all murdered women die at the hands of spouses and partners and a quarter of all violent crimes against women are committed by spouses and partners. Indeed, the latest figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics actually show an increase of 13 percent in rape and sexual assault.

So we have a long way to go. The battle continues. It is why the Violence Against Women Act is so important and will make such a difference in the lives of women across America. I will not catalog its provisions. That has been done by my colleagues before me. I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

In conclusion, let us hope this law will hasten the time when violence against women is not a unique and rampant problem requiring the attention of this body. Let us pray for the time when women no longer need to live in fear of being beaten.

I yield my time and thank my colleagues.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see my good friend, the Senator from Iowa, on the floor. I yield him 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Vermont for yielding me this time to voice my support for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. It is an important act that should be passed forthwith.

I was a proud cosponsor of this bill when it passed in 1994, and I am an original cosponsor of the reauthorization bill. This is a law that has helped hundreds of thousands of women and children in my State of Iowa and across the Nation. Iowa has received more than \$8 million through grants of VAWA. These grants fund the domestic violence hotline and keep the doors open at domestic violence shelters, such as the Family Violence Center in Des Moines.

VAWA grants to Iowa have provided services to more than 2,000 sexual assault victims just this year, and more than 20,559 Iowa students this year have received information about rape prevention through this Federal funding.

The numbers show that VAWA is working. A recent Justice report found that intimate partner violence against women decreased by 21 percent from 1993 to 1998. This is strong evidence that State and community efforts are indeed working. But this fight is far from over. The reauthorization of this important legislation will allow these efforts to continue without having to worry that this funding will be lost from year to year. I commend the Democratic and Republican leadership for working to get this bill done before we adjourn.

I believe my friends on the Republican side of the aisle are suffering from a split personality. They are willing to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, but they are not willing to put a judge on the Federal bench who knows more about this law, has done more to implement this law than any other person in this country, and that is Bonnie J. Campbell, who right now heads the Office of Violence Against Women that was set up by this law in 1994. In fact, Bonnie Campbell has been the head of this office since its inception, and the figures bear out the fact that this office is working, and it is working well.

Bonnie Campbell's name was submitted to the Senate in March. She had her hearing in May. All the paperwork is done. Yet she is bottled up in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Yesterday, the Senator from Alabama appeared on the CNN news show "Burden of Proof" to discuss the status of judicial nominations. I want to address some of the statements he made on that show.

Senator SESSIONS said Bonnie Campbell has no courtroom experience. The truth: Bonnie Campbell's qualifications are exemplary. The American Bar Association has given her their stamp of approval. She has had a long history in law starting in 1984 with her private practice in Des Moines where she